

the Board of Trade, and a much better  
Colonial Secretary  
than some people thought, in both offices he  
gave some  
colour to the *bon-mot* that went the rounds at  
the time, to  
the effect that he was the one Minister who  
thought of all  
the objections to any proposed course of action  
before his  
Permanent Departmental Heads had put them  
to him This  
certainly could never have been said of him,  
when he was  
reorganising the government of London, and "  
painting the  
sky red with projects " As it was, he had sixty-  
three years  
of exceedingly strenuous life behind him when  
he began,  
and over seventy when he finished his  
parliamentary career,  
while the times in which he had to function  
were abnormal,  
and called for exceptional energies and  
adaptations

1922 was not an easy year for the Party,  
and the Party  
itself was not too easy It was drawn from  
very varying  
elements, and fed by very various strains of  
feeling The  
first action that the new M P, for Seaham had to  
take, on his  
arrival at Westminster, was to assist in  
electing a Leader  
for the party, now some one-hundred and  
forty strong,  
twice as strong, that is to say, as it had been  
through the  
thankless period of the Lloyd George Coalition  
Government  
which broke in 1922 The new Left wing, led  
by the I L P  
men from the Clyde, was pressing to have Mr J  
R Clynes,  
who had been leader in the last months of the  
old parlia-  
ment, substituted by Mr J Ramsay  
MacDonald They  
got their way, at the party meeting, although  
by a very

narrow majority      Among those who voted  
change, there were some who felt that  
demanded that Mr Clynes, who had had  
rough of it as leader of a handful, should now  
of the relatively smooth      Webb, with his  
manners, strong kindliness, and keen sense of  
as a vital element in the life of any Socialist  
doubtedly felt this      He felt, moreover, if he did  
the feeling at the time, or indeed, for many  
years, a radical